

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

Disclosed are methods according to which a local computing device enables remote devices to initiate traffic flows with it by sending messages addressed to the remote devices. If the local device is behind one or more NATs, the NATs intercept the messages and create address mappings between the local and remote devices. When the remote devices initiate traffic flows, the NATs use these pre-established mappings to send the traffic to the local device. Before sending the initial message, the local device discovers from which remote devices it wishes to accept traffic. In one discovery method, the devices each communicate with a directory service. The service records which devices are willing to communicate with which others and provides that information to the devices. Each device induces a NAT mapping by sending a message to the other. Once discovery is complete, traffic flows between the devices without going through the directory service.

FOI b7c b7d b7e b7f b7g b7h b7i b7j b7k b7l b7m b7n b7o b7p b7q b7r b7s b7t b7u b7v b7w b7x b7y b7z